GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1144
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2001
SPECIAL TECHNOLOGY FOR FOOD GRADE JUTE BAGS
PUSHPDAN SHAMBHUDAN GADHAVI

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Jute Industry Research Associations (IJIRA) has developed a special technology based on Rice Bran Oil tc manufacture Food Grade Jute Bags for packing edible items;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether only 17 out of 70 Jute Mills are reported to have the facility to manufacture Food Grade Jute Bags; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefore and the steps taken by the Government in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir. Indian Jute Industry Research Associations (IJIRA) has developed technology using Rice Bran Oil to manufacture hydro-carbon free jute bags which is commercially known as food grade jute bags. The standard Specificationof International Jute Organisation (IJO 98/01) for such jute bagsused in packaging selected food items (Cocoa Beans, Coffee Beans and Shelled Nuts) stipulates that the bags should not contain unsaponifiables exceeding 1250 mg./kg; the ingredients used as batching oils shall be non-toxic and approved for use in packing materials that will come in contact with food materials and batching oils shall also not contain compounds that could produce off flavors or off tastes in food materials packed in jute bags.

IJIRA developed RBO technology for commercial production of (Hydrocarbon free) jute bags suitable for packing of selected food items. RBO is non-toxic and biodegradable.It is unique in terms of high thermal and oxidation stability and therefore reasonably free from rancidity.

(c) At present twenty four (24) jute mills having the facility to use Rice Bran Oil and produce such Jute Products, have obtained license under Process Capability Scheme of IJIRA and are producing hydro-carbon free Jute Products. There are also six converters licensed to buy FGJP cloth from IJIRA licensed mills and convert the same into bags.

(d) Since the technology is available for Commercial use by Indian Jute mills, as and when the demand for these bags increases, more mills are expected to upgrade their process capabilities and obtain licenses from IJIRA.